

Honorable members:

I am writing to ask for your support for the restoration of recreational liability protection for municipalities and municipal corporations like the Metropolitan District Commission. I lead a lot of hikes for groups (AMC, CFPA, BSA) and often use municipal trails to get folks out in the woods. With judgments this past year against the MDC and the City of Waterbury, the potential for municipal risk managers to close trails due to liability concerns is ever increasing. Plus, it really makes no sense to leave municipalities exposed when state and private landowners receive this protection. It makes even less sense when you consider that the state assists municipalities in preserving open space. This same open space might then become unavailable because city or town leaders are afraid of lawsuits. In closing, I ask that you consider the greater good - recreational opportunities for the public at large.

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